United Nations A/C.3/62/L.7

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 October 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Third Committee
Agenda item 62 (b)
Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Senegal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005, in which it took note of the three clusters presented in the "World Youth Report 2005",[2] namely, youth in the global economy, youth in civil society, and youth and their well-being, and requested the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, including the definition of goals and targets, in one of the three clusters presented in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling further Commission for Social Development resolution 45/2,[3] in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with organizations, programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to identify goals and targets regarding the cluster "youth and the global economy" and to submit an addendum to the report by the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[4] to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session,

[1] Resolution 50/81, annex.
[2] A/60/61-E/2005/7.
[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 6* (E/2007/26), chap. I.E.
[4] A/62/61-E/2007/7.

07-53655 (E) 111007

1. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[1] and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,[5] require the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international level;

2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth;[6]

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[4] and on goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy;[7]

4. *Recognizes* that while youth today are better placed than ever before to participate in and benefit from global development, many young people, especially in developing countries, remain marginalized from the global economy and lack the capabilities to access the opportunities globalization offers, and calls in this regard, upon Member States to:

(a) Integrate and protect youth in the global economy through the provision of employment under decent work conditions;

(b) Ensure that, in youth development, their access to food, health, education and employment are specifically addressed in national policies and programmes, including in poverty reduction strategy papers and other policy documents that aim to foster the participation of countries in the global economy;

(c) Ensure adequate funding for formal and non-formal education, including programmes geared at fostering the acquisition of requisite skills by youth;

(d) Improve the ability of young people to make a better transition into the world of work and enhance their access to the changing labour market through promoting policies that expand opportunities for youth to get quality education and training; the provision of skills development combined with other programmes that are targeted at the specific labour market needs of youth and that focus on the multiple needs of those most at risk of joblessness; and the incorporation of skills training into education planning at all stages;

(e) Reinforce links between policies on education, training, social inclusion and mobility in order to improve the situation of young people in the labour market and to significantly reduce youth unemployment while also supporting policies that promote reconciliation of family life and working life, equal opportunities, solidarity between the generations, health and lifelong learning;

(f) Develop national strategies to overcome the "digital divide" in all countries and ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use information and communications technology appropriately, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways and to

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[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 6* (E/2007/26), chap. I.A.

[7] A/62/61/Add.1-E/2007/7/Add.1.

share their expertise, thus enabling them to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage, while also providing them with access to information on a range of issues that directly affect them, including health, education and employment;

(g) Promote young women's equal access to education and vocational training at all levels in order to provide them with an equal opportunity to participate in the global economy;

5. *Encourages* Member States to involve young people in the development of national policies that affect them, where appropriate, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights;

6. *Invites* Member States to consider using the proposed goals and targets, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy,[7] at the national level as a means of facilitating the monitoring of progress of youth in the global economy and the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

7. *Encourages* Member States, in collaboration with the United Nations system, young people, youth-led organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to design national youth policies with the objective of achieving the proposed goals and targets and, where appropriate, to establish mechanisms to measure progress against the goals and targets, including comprehensive databases within youth ministries or similar offices, and to disaggregate data related to these goals and targets by age and sex whenever possible;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the full participation of youth-led organizations and other stakeholders in all efforts to achieve the proposed goals and targets;

9. *Encourages* Member States to collect youth-specific disaggregated data on a continuous basis in the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and requests the Secretary-General to devise means to widely disseminate such data in order to ensure that the global interest in youth development is informed by sound and adequate data;

10. *Welcomes* the process of collaboration and consultation between Member States, the organizations, programmes, regional commissions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations in identifying the proposed goals and targets for measuring youth and the global economy, and recommends continued collaboration, including cooperation in high-level training, between these actors in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the monitoring of progress of such implementation;

11. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young people are recognized as active agents in decision-making process and for positive change and development in society, and in this regard urges Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council, including in its functional commissions, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance;

12. *Recognizes* the need for a greater geographical balance of youth representatives, and invites Member States to contribute to the United Nations Youth

Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries;

13. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-sixth session, to take the recommendations on youth employment contained in the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[4] into account in its discussions of its priority theme "Promoting full employment and decent work for all";

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session, on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth in the clusters "youth in civil society" and "youth and their well-being" and to include in that report a comprehensive set of goals and targets for those clusters based on consultations with Member States, the organizations, programmes, regional commissions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, young people, youth-led organizations and other non-governmental organizations.